

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 20 2004

**OFFICIAL**

**CARDINAL LAW GROUP**

1603 Orrington Avenue/Suite 2000  
Evanston, Illinois 60201  
Telephone 847 - 905 - 7111  
Facsimile 847 - 905 - 7113

**CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY-CLIENT  
PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION**

Date: JANUARY 20, 2004

To: EXAMINER ROBERT SICONOLFI  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Fax #: (703) 872-9327

From: FRANK C. NICHOLAS  
Fax #: (847) 905-7113

Client/Matter No.: DP-304380 (7500/52)

# of Pages: 14  
(including cover sheet)

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS RECEIVING THIS MESSAGE, PLEASE CALL 847/905-7111, Ext. 2280, AND ASK FOR JENNIFER CRUZ.

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED. IT MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL, ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT, OR TRADE SECRET INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAWS. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR AN EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPYING OF THIS MESSAGE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE (AND ALL COPIES) TO US BY MAIL AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. WE WILL REIMBURSE YOU FOR POSTAGE.

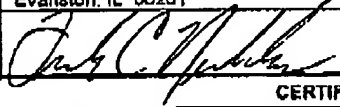

PTO-522 (12-07), approved for use through fiscal year 2008-09. Forms and Transmittal Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paper Reduction Act of 1996, no person shall be required to respond to a request for information unless it contains a clear and concise statement

<b>TRANSMITTAL FROM</b>  <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Attorney Docket No.	DP-304380 (7500/52)
	Application Number	09/813,176
	Filing Date	MARCH 20, 2001
	First Named Inventor	PATRICK H. FULLENKAMP
	Group Art Unit	3683
	Examiner	SICONOLFI, ROBERT

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response to Office Action Dated November 19, 2003 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request (dupl.) <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, art <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawings <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> To Convert a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entry Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request of Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Post Card Receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

## CALCULATION OF FEE

				Small Entry		Large Entry		
	Claims After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus		0	x \$9=	0	x \$18=	
Indep		Minus		0	x \$42=	0	x \$84=	\$0
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					x \$140=		x \$280=	
					total add'l fee	\$ 0	total add'l fee	\$0

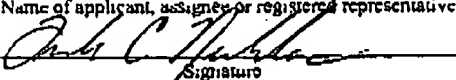
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Or Individual name	FRANK C. NICHOLAS Registration No. 33,983 CARDINAL LAW GROUP 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 2000 Evanston, IL 60201		
Signature		Date	JANUARY 20, 2004
CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to (703) 872-9327 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this date: JANUARY 20, 2004			
Signature		Date	JANUARY 20, 2004
FRANK C. NICHOLAS (33,983)			

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 20 2004

OFFICIAL

Certificate of Facsimile  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
transmitted by facsimile to (703) 872-9327 to the U S  
Patent and Trademark Office January 20, 2004  
(Date of Deposit)

FRANK C. NICHOLAS (33 983)  
Name of applicant, assignee or registered representative  
  
Signature  
January 20, 2004

PATENT  
Case No.: **DP-304380**  
(7500/52)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:	)	
	)	
PATRICK H. FULLENKAMP, ET AL.	)	Examiner: SICONOLFI, R.
	)	
Serial No.: 09/813,176	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 3683
Filing Date: MARCH 20, 2001	)	
	)	
For: STRUT SPRING SEAT SUPPORT	)	

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to a Final Office Action dated November 19, 2003, please consider  
the following amendment and remarks regarding the above-identified application:

January 20, 2004  
Case No.: DP-305283 (7500/52)  
Serial No.: 09/813,176  
Filed: March 20, 2001  
Page 2

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

The present response replies to a Final Office Action dated November 19, 2003. Claims 1 and 4-23 are currently pending in the present application. Examiner Siconolfi rejected claims 1 and 4-23.

In the Final Office Action, Examiner Siconolfi asserted the following action to pending claims 1 and 4-23:

- A. Claims 1 and 4-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller et al. US Patent No. 4,545,601 in view of Handke et al. US Patent No. 5,622,242.

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.116.